

# Assessment, measurement and evaluation within public mental health

Citation for published version (APA):

Hoofs, H. M. (2018). *Assessment, measurement and evaluation within public mental health: methodological and psychometric challenges*. [Doctoral Thesis, Maastricht University]. Ipskamp Printing BV. <https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20180507hh>

## Document status and date:

Published: 01/01/2018

## DOI:

[10.26481/dis.20180507hh](https://doi.org/10.26481/dis.20180507hh)

## Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

## Please check the document version of this publication:

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# Assessment, Measurement and Evaluation within Public Mental Health

## Methodological and Psychometric Challenges

1. “Measurement and assessment of public mental health that is subject to latent defects will hinder proper and valid evaluation.” (*This thesis*)
2. “The use of multiple indicators enable more stringent tests of specific hypotheses that should hold for a measurement instrument to be valid within a given context.” (*This thesis*)  
An instrument with multiple indicators should therefore be favoured above a single-item instrument.
3. The finding that the trait of fatigue mainly predicts future sickness absence (*This thesis*) fully supports *Cole and Maxwell (2009)*: “Failure to disentangle time-varying and time-invariant components of an outcome (or risk) variable can lead to profound interpretational problems, which vary enormously depending on which component is the primary focus in a given study.”
4. “While measurement issues, in general, do not result in splashy findings being published in high impact journals, awareness of them can prevent publication of incorrect splashy findings in high impact journals.” (*This thesis*)
5. “The saddest thing that I’ve ever seen are smokers outside the hospital doors” (*Editors, 2007*), clearly reflects the ambiguous nature of public mental health which makes it a difficult topic to grasp or measure.
6. Dissemination of the generated knowledge within this thesis will be greatly enhanced by implementation of the BRMSEA within Mplus, a software package that is used by many researchers within the field of public mental health.
7. Models assessed in this thesis, or any study for that matter, will be imperfect in the real world, so the question always remain: “what’s in the box?” (*David Mills, 1995*)
8. “The BRMSEA can play an important role in the increased understanding of the quality of measurement instruments within the public mental health.” (*This thesis*)
9. Assessment of the quality of a measurement instruments is more than only judging fit statistics and coefficients. Feasibility and user-friendliness are at least as important for a successful implementation.
10. “If one set of measures means one thing to one group and something different to another group, a group mean comparison may be tantamount to comparing apples and spark plugs.” (*Vandenberg & Lance, 2000*) Testing measurement invariance is therefore a mandatory prerequisite for any valid comparison of scores between groups.
11. “Ohana means family. Family means nobody gets left behind or forgotten.” (*Stitch, 2002*)

**Huub Hoofs**

Maastricht, 7 mei 2018